

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to:

Fig. 2 has been changed to correct a minor typographical error.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present Applicant. Claims 1, 4 and 7 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3 and 6 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, claim 4 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6 and claim 7 has been amended to include similar limitations to the allowable claims. All the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Drawings

Examiner objected to the drawings due to a misspelling in Figure 2. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants are submitting a replacement sheet for Figure 2 with the correct spelling.

Claim Objections

Examiner objected to claims 5 and 6 due to improper claim dependency. By way of the present, Applicants have canceled these claims and incorporated their contents into claim 4. Accordingly, this rejection is rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 7 stands rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner points out that the computer readable medium arrangement is not supported in the specification. By way of the present Amendment,

Applicants have amended the final paragraph of the specification to include a description of the computer readable medium described in claim 7. No new matter has been entered in this Amendment since original claim 7 provides support for this language. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Hanamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6, 587,508) in view of Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,783). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, it is noted that the Examiner has included claims 3 and 6 in the statement of this rejection. However, the Examiner has separately indicated the allowability of these dependent claims both on page 10 of the action and in the Office Action Summary. Applicants believe that the conclusion of 3 and 6 in this rejection was merely an oversight. Accordingly, it is assumed that this rejection was intended to applied only to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the allowable limitations from claims 3 and 6 to independent claims 1, 4 and 7. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 1 and 4 would be allowable with this addition. Applicants have added the similar limitations to claim 7. Applicants believe that claim 7 will likewise become allowable. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is believed that all the claims are now allowable. Accordingly, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet